



# MIAMI DADE COUNTY FOSTER & ADOPTIVE PARENT ASSOCIATION

("MDCFAPA")

(Our Motto: "You Are Not Alone")

\*\*\*\* **AUGUST** \*\*\*\*

**2025 Newsletter**



**2025**

## **Board Members**

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33054

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*Travis Davis,  
President*

*Barbara Johnson,  
Vice President*

*Joann Jones,  
Corresponding Secretary*

*Ethel Rivers,  
Treasurer*

*Cynthia Hughes,  
Parliamentarian*

*Elizabeth Brooks,  
Chaplain*

*Lily Rodriguez,  
Board Member At Large*

*Lashoan Singleton,  
Board Member At Large*

*Shamele Jenkins,  
Executive Director  
& Immediate Past President  
(305) 469-1157*

MDCFAPA is open to ALL co-parents (foster, adoptive, & kinship, non-relative caregivers and biological parents) in Miami Dade County as well as those interested in being advocates of our mission

## **AUGUST MEANS BACK TO SCHOOL**



- Re-assure your child. ...
- Prepare & plan ahead
- Plan bedtime and wake-up routine in advance. ...
- Prepare a weekly meal planner and to-do list. ...
- Prepare a safety first mindset to, in and from school
- Communication is the key.
- Meet the new teachers. ...
- Discuss bullying with your children. ...

## **MDCFAPA LIVE & IN PERSON TRAINING MEETINGS (new dates)**

\* **NORTH DADE** \*  
**Sept. 6th** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays  
10:00am – 12:00pm

The Institute  
5120 N.W. 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Miami, FL 33142

\* **SOUTH DADE** \*  
**Sept. 6** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays  
3:00pm-5:00pm

First Church of the  
Nazarene  
11805 SW 232 Street  
Goulds, FL 33170

- 2 hrs. of credit in-service training
- Door prizes galore
- Refreshments
- Dinner served on Wed eve mtgs
- Free childcare & teen mtgs during general meeting
- Free groceries distribution too!

**\*\* JOIN US \*\***



**"SCHOOL DATES"**  
**MIAMI DADE PUBLIC**  
**SCHOOL**  
**2025-2026**

\*TPD – Teachers Planning Day

**August 14** - First day of school  
**September 1** - Labor Day  
**September 23** – TPB no school\*  
**October 2** - TPB no school\*  
**November 11** - Veterans' Day  
**November 24-26** – Recess Days  
**November 27-28** –Thanksgiving  
**December 22 - January 2, 2026** - Winter recess  
**January 16** - TPB no school  
**January 19** - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday  
**February 16** - All Presidents Day  
**March 20** - TPB no school\*  
**March 23-27** - Spring recess  
**April 23** - TPB no school\*  
**May 25** - Memorial Day  
**June 4** - Last day of school

**Miami Dade Public**  
**School Board**

1450 NE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL  
 Phone: (305) 995-1000

**Foster Care MDCPS**  
**Contacts**

<https://www3.dadeschools.net/FosterCare/home>  
 these schools have a liaison for youth in foster care!!!

**MDCPS Parent**  
**Engagement Handbook**  
<https://www.engagemiamidade.net/frequently-asked-questions-guide>



**DID YOU RENEW OR OBTAIN YOUR MDCFAPA 2025 FAMILY REGISTRATION?**

Memberships is **\$25.00 per calendar year**

**Membership gets you**

1. Tickets to plays, concerts
2. Movie premieres
3. Private parties
4. Distribution of foods, school
5. Support & more

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**  
[www.mdcfapa.org](http://www.mdcfapa.org)

**MDCFAPA PERKS**

**Church's Chicken** – 10% off each order

**Jiffy Lube** - \$15.00 off sv



**plumbenefits**

**March Savings Are Here with MDCFAPA's Member Program!**

August News & Happenings You Won't Want to Miss! April is here, and we're celebrating YOU! As a valued member of MDCFAPA, you have access to exclusive savings on travel, entertainment, shopping, and more—all through Plum Benefits.

It's free and easy to enroll! Simply visit [www.plumbenefits.com/](http://www.plumbenefits.com/) and use company code **MDCFAPAPERKS** to start saving today.

**It's free and easy to enroll! Visit [www.plumbenefits.com/](http://www.plumbenefits.com/) and use company code **MDCFAPAPERKS** to unlock these exclusive offers today.**



The Salvation Army is one of our partners. They ask that you register your kids for Xmas gifts now!

<https://bit.ly/ANGELTREENPO>



**HOTLINES**

**Foster Placement Line**  
**(305) 810-1004**

**Citrus FCN Incident Report**  
**Hotline 305-445-1055**

**Placement On-Call/After Hours**  
**305-810-1004**

**ADOPTION UNIT: ADOPTION SUBSIDY ISSUES, POST-HEALTH CARE AND MORE?**

[BBofill@citrusfcn.com](mailto:BBofill@citrusfcn.com)  
[postadopt@citrusfcn.com](mailto:postadopt@citrusfcn.com)  
 Katrella -786-521-6194  
 Sergio 786-501-5317  
 Madalina 786-817-7240

**The Village**

**FRC**

**Wesley House**

**F. A. S. T. Foster Allegation Support Team 1-800-327-8119 \***  
<http://www.floridafapa.org>

**Florida Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-500-1119, Florida Relay 711, TTY: 1-800-621-4202**  
**Florida Sexual Violence information line 1-888-956-7273**

**National Suicide & Mental Health Prevention Hotline**  
**9 8 8**

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## Checklist for the First Day of School



As you and your child prepare for the first day of the new school year, use this checklist to help make sure you have taken care of the necessary tasks and have the information you need.

- **Is your child registered?** Many school districts hold registration for returning students during the spring of the prior school year, often online.
- **When is the first day of school**, and what time does school start? What will your child's daily schedule be like?
- **How is your child going to get to school?** If your child is biking, do they know the school rules for bicycles? If they are walking for the first time, who will they walk with to and from school? Have you reviewed safety precautions with them regarding traffic and strangers? (See "[Walking and Biking to School: Keeping Kids Safe](#).")
- **Will they need to bring a snack?** What kinds of

[snacks](#) are allowed and encouraged? Are refillable water bottles allowed? [Water](#) is the perfect beverage, an inexpensive and healthy choice.

- **What time is lunch?** Can your child buy it at school, and how much will it [cost](#)?
- **What clothes will your child need to wear?** Are there any restrictions on what they can wear? Will they need a different set of clothes for physical education or art classes?
- **Does your child need to bring supplies** such as pencils, paper and notebooks? Often, school districts will publish grade-specific school supply lists online ahead of time, and supplies can be brought in during the school walk-through day. Many parent-teacher organizations hold online fundraiser supply kit sales, as well.
- **Does your child have a [backpack](#)** or something else in which to carry their books and supplies back and forth to school? Will they have a place (besides their desk) to keep their things at school?
- **Have you filled out all health forms or [emergency contact forms](#)** sent home (or published online on the district website)?
- **Have any new health problems developed in**

**your child over the summer** that will affect their school day? Does the [school nurse](#) know about this condition, or is an appointment set up to discuss it?

- **If your child will need to take medication at school** on the first day, have arrangements and necessary paperwork (usually requiring signatures from your pediatrician) been made for this?
- **Does your child know where they are going after school** (like home or to a babysitter)? Do they know how they will get there? If you will not be there when they arrive, does he know who will be [responsible](#) for them, what the rules are, and how to get help in an emergency?
- **Does your child have your cell and work telephone numbers memorized and accessible?**